
Drama Division

VA Staff: Keep track of all Veterans who compete/enter through your VA facility and enter their information into **Local Level Participation form on page 14 of the handbook**. **Send this form to Arts4Vets@va.gov when your local competition has ended.**

Facilities may submit the top three finalists in each category. A formal competition is not required at the local level but is strongly encouraged. All eligible Veterans should be given the opportunity to participate regardless of degree of talent.

All first place medal winners in the dance, drama and music divisions at the national level of competition will be invited to attend and participate as chorus members in the live stage show performance at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Note: Not all gold medal winners will be asked to perform their entry in the show. Due to time constraints, the Festival show directors will choose approximately 25 dance, drama, and music gold medal entries to perform their entry. The remaining gold medalists will be invited to participate in the Festival chorus.

Veterans who wish to have their original work judged by **performance criteria** (stage presence, expressiveness and interpretation) should submit the entry into the **DRAMA** division in one of the categories below that best fits the entry. Veterans who wish to have their **original work** judged by criteria based upon the **merit of the composition** (creative content, message clarity, use of language, and originality of topic or idea) should submit the entry into the **CREATIVE WRITING** division.

Tips for Taking Better Video Recordings

Please take a few extra minutes preparing a video correctly to give your Veteran the best chance possible during the judging process and to save hours of time with the judging process for our judges who donate their time.

- **Be sure to check that all videos play with video and audio before submission.**
- **Focus on the performer**, not the accompanists. Avoid taping from the back of the room. Stage presence cannot be judged if you cannot clearly see the performer.
- When video recording dance acts, it is necessary to include the whole-body in the entire recording, including the feet.
- **Sound control** is important! Clear audio makes a performance much easier (and enjoyable) to judge. Make sure your sound is good and balanced. Be aware of the accompaniment being

too loud. Oftentimes we see/hear the speaker/player is next to the video camera and it is difficult to hear the performer.

- Consider holding your local competition and then video recording **ONLY** the acts that will be sent forward for national judging.
- **Dance, drama, and music entries** will be accepted digitally (MP4, WMV, MOV) through the Arts4Vets App.
- **TITLE PAGE** – Each entry must have a title page displayed prior to the entry being shown. The title page should include the Category and the Title of the Entry. The title page can be inserted during the editing process or it can be done manually prior to the taping. It is acceptable to hold up a handwritten sign that states the category and title of piece.

Drama Division Rules

1. All entries in the dance, drama and music divisions must be recorded after October 1, 2022.
2. Suggested length of performance - no longer than three minutes.
3. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
4. The **addition of staff, volunteer(s), and/or Veterans who are not eligible Veterans to any entry will result in disqualification.** However, if a drama entry requires a female character and no eligible female Veterans are available, the part may be read by a female volunteer or staff member. *Although the National Veterans Creative Arts Program recognizes the therapeutic value of participation of staff, volunteers and ineligible Veterans in groups, it is essential in keeping with the fairness of the competition that **only eligible Veterans** are competing against each other.*
5. All Veterans must contribute significantly to the presentation in a dramatic way **and be seen on the video** for an entry to be submitted into a group category.
6. **TITLE PAGE** – Each entry must have a title page displayed prior to the entry being shown. The title page should include the Category and the Title of the Entry. The title page can be inserted during the editing process or it can be done manually prior to the taping. It is acceptable to hold up a handwritten sign that states the category and title of piece.

Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the competition results.

Drama Categories

1. **Dramatic Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry). For example: a reading or excerpt from a speech.
2. **Patriotic Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that relates to American patriotism.
3. **Inspirational Prose** - Solo or group. A composition in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) with content that is of spiritual nature.
4. **Comedy Prose** - Solo or group. Any drama of light and amusing character.
5. **Dramatic Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition.
6. **Patriotic Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition with content that relates to American patriotism.
7. **Inspirational Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition with content that is of an inspirational nature.
8. **Comedy Poetry** - Solo or group. A verse composition of light and amusing character.
9. **Interpretive Performance-Dramatic** - Solo or group. A presentation that involves acting, movement, and props.
10. **Interpretive Performance-Novelty** - Solo or group. A presentation that is of light and amusing character involving acting, movement and props. Mime, juggling, magic, puppetry and ventriloquism should be submitted into this category.
11. **Multimedia (UPDATED DEFINITION)** - Solo or Group. Using a combination of art forms, entries in this category creatively showcase an array of original artistic mediums and crafts such as film, literature, performance, music and sound, drama, visual arts, or design. The entire entry should be original and created by only by eligible Veterans. Entries may be submitted as images, text, or video submissions. Judging criteria for this category: Structure and Organization; Originality and Creativity; Total Presentation

12. Special Recognition - Solo or group. Existing or original. Entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the use of drama while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. Multimedia entries are allowed in this category.

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

- A **Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (50 to 250 words) composed by a VA staff person or the Veteran explaining why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition. **Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.**
- Consent form 10-3203 and 10-5345 (included in this handbook) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.